The list of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) A method of improving bioavailability of ergot derivatives administered using sustained-release delivery systems comprising combining an ergot derivative or mixture thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable hydrophilic swelling agent or mixture thereof and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients;

wherein said ergot derivative is ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ α-dihydroergocryptine and ~~bromocriptine~~ the bioavailability of the ergot derivative is at least 25% higher than the bioavailability of an ergot derivative or mixture thereof administered using a conventional drug delivery system.

21. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 20, wherein the bioavailability is at least equal to the bioavailability of the ergot derivative or mixture thereof administered using a conventional drug delivery system.

22-24. (Cancelled)

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 20, wherein the hydrophilic swelling agent is selected from the group consisting of methylcellulose, carboxymethylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, polyvinyl alcohols, polyoxyethylene glycols and poloxamers and mixtures thereof.

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 20, wherein the one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients is selected from the group consisting of lubricants, suspending agents, binders, diluents, flavorants, colorants, dispersing agents and wetting agents.

27. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 20, wherein the ratio of ergot derivative to hydrophilic swelling agent is about 1:0.5 to about 1:10.

28. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 20, wherein the ratio of α-dihydroergocryptine to hydrophilic swelling agent is about 1:0.5 to about 1:5.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 20, wherein about 5 to about 80 mg of ergot derivative is present.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) A sustained-release pharmaceutical composition comprising:

an ergot derivative or mixture thereof;

a pharmaceutically acceptable swelling agent or mixture thereof; and

one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients;

~~said composition having a bioavailability at least equal to the bioavailability of the ergot derivative or mixture thereof administered using a conventional drug delivery system, and~~ ~~wherein~~ said ergot derivative is ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ α-dihydroergocryptine and ~~bromocriptine~~ the bioavailability the ergot derivative is at least 25% higher than the bioavailability of an ergot derivative or mixture thereof administered using a conventional drug delivery system.

33-34. (Cancelled)

35. (Previously Presented) The composition according to Claim 32, wherein the hydrophilic swelling agent is selected from the group consisting of methylcellulose, carboxymethylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, polyvinyl alcohols, polyoxyethylene glycols and poloxamers and mixtures thereof.

36. (Previously Presented) The composition according to Claim 32, wherein the one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients is selected from the group consisting of lubricants, suspending agents, binders, diluents, flavorants, colorants, dispersing agents and wetting agents.

37. (Previously Presented) The composition according to Claim 32, wherein the ratio of ergot derivative to hydrophilic swelling agent is about 1:0.5 to about 1:10.

38. (Previously Presented) The composition according to Claim 32, wherein the ratio of α-dihydroergocryptine to hydrophilic swelling agent is about 1:0.5 to about 1:5.

39. (Cancelled)

40. (Previously Presented) The composition according to Claim 32, wherein the ergot derivative is present in the amount of about 5 to about 80 mg.

41-51. (Cancelled)

52. (New) The method according to Claim 20, wherein the ratio of α-dihydroergocryptine to hydrophilic swelling agent is about 1:1 to about 1:4.

53. (New) The composition according to Claim 32, wherein the ratio of α-dihydroergocryptine to hydrophilic swelling agent is about 1:1 to about 1:4.

54. (New) A method of improving bioavailability of ergot derivatives administered using sustained-release delivery systems comprising combining a α-dihydroergocryptine or mixture thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable hydrophilic swelling agent or mixture thereof and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients;

wherein said α-dihydroergocryptine is present in the amount of about 5 to about 80 mg, the ratio of α-dihydroergocryptine to hydrophilic swelling agent is about 1:1 to about 1:4 and the bioavailability of the ergot derivative is at least 25% higher than the bioavailability of an ergot derivative or mixture thereof administered using a conventional drug delivery system.

55. (New) A sustained-release pharmaceutical composition comprising:

α-dihydroergocryptine or mixture thereof;

a pharmaceutically acceptable swelling agent or mixture thereof; and

one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients;

said composition having a bioavailability at least equal to the bioavailability of an α-dihydroergocryptine or mixture thereof administered using a conventional drug delivery system, and wherein said α-dihydroergocryptine is present in the amount of about 5 to about 80 mg and the ratio of α-dihydroergocryptine to hydrophilic swelling agent is about 1:1 to about 1:4.